

Internships and Graduate School

Different Types of “Internships”

- * Company/industry internships
- * Research assistantships at other universities or national laboratories or research centers
 - * During summer or academic year
 - * In some cases may be used as senior project

General Advice

- * Do your homework
 - * E.g.: most oil companies only take grad students as interns
- * Create and update your resume
 - * Build skillset and background experience with volunteer work and extra-curricular activities (can also lead to letter of recommendation writer)
- * Networking helps!
 - * Both in terms of being informed about opportunities and to help build resume
 - * Attend local society meetings
 - * Present your research at conferences

General Advice

- * Use your official E-mail address on your resume and in E-mail correspondence
- * Consider having business cards made
- * Be pro-active!

Industry Internships

- * Most likely to be successful: through contacts, local societies, other students, alumni and faculty
- * Can also apply through websites of individual companies
- * Can't be too picky about job-related tasks, but should also not be doing menial tasks without pay...

Research Assistantships

- * Commonly 8 – 10 weeks in summer
- * Application deadline usually in January or February
 - * letters of recommendation
- * Many pay a stipend or salary, travel/accommodation expenses
- * Let us know if you're interested in internships and we will forward information to you as we receive announcements/E-mail

Internships: Examples

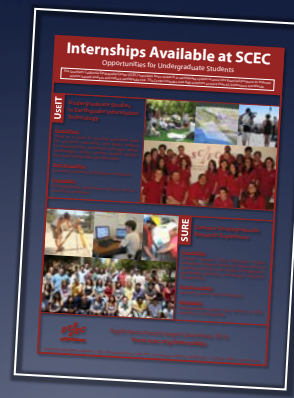
- * REU: http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.cfm?unitid=5050
- * Faculty/students familiar with IRIS, SAGE, SCEC, Keck Geology
- * GeoCorps America: http://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/index.htm
- * NASA: <https://intern.nasa.gov/>
- * And more....
- * <http://cires.colorado.edu/science/groups/sheehan/opportunities/internships.html>

Internships: SCEC

Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC)

<http://www.scec.org/education/college/internships/>

- Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
- Undergraduate Studies in Earthquake Information Technology



Internships: RESESS

RESESS is a summer internship program for college students from underrepresented populations in the geoscience

<http://resess.unavco.org/resess.html>



Internships: SAGE

- Summer of Applied Geophysical Experience
- Unique educational program designed to introduce students in geophysics and related fields to "hands on" geophysical exploration and research.
- Program emphasizes both teaching of field methods and research related to a variety of basic and applied problems
- <http://www.sage.lanl.gov/>



Internships: JPL

- Large variety of opportunities: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/education/internships/>
- Many have 3.0 GPA requirement
- Geoscience, engineering, planetary science, remote sensing, GIS
- JPL currently looking for SIRI interns



Graduate School Timeline

- * Two years before graduation:
 - * Keep up GPA
 - * Start senior thesis project so you will be able to present your research at conferences
 - * Consider taking additional classes
 - * Only if this will not negatively affect your GPA and/or your graduation date
 - * Attend local conferences and meetings
 - * Start thinking about who could write a strong letter of recommendation for you
 - * Build a strong resume

Graduate School Timeline

- * ? - Sept:
 - * Research universities, programs and faculty
 - * MSc and/or PhD
 - * part-time or full-time student
 - * any geographic restrictions?
 - * funding
 - * specific programs/majors
 - * talk to department faculty and other contacts
 - * study for GRE
 - * choose a range of schools
 - * consider application fee as investment in future
 - * When at conferences, talk to faculty and students

Graduate School Timeline

- * Sept – Dec:
 - * Write E-mails to potential faculty advisors
 - * Do research (website)
 - * Write specific/personal E-mail
 - * Write personal statement
 - * Ask for feedback
 - * Take GRE (give yourself time to retake)
 - * Letters of recommendation
 - * Ask weeks in advance (November/December)
 - * Best approach: provide folder with summary spreadsheet(program, type of application, specific program or degree, deadline) and for each school forms/envelopes etc.
- * Dec – Jan: Many application deadlines

Things that Look Good

- * Research experience (especially in area of specialization)
 - * internships/REU's
 - * thesis research
 - * presentations at professional meetings and conferences (so consider starting your thesis project early!!)
- * Consider additional coursework or a minor
 - * in geophysics: math and programming experience
- * GRE (quantitative! and verbal) is more important than you might think
 - * no Geology subject test
 - * Physics subject test is NOT recommended, unless required
- * Letter of recommendation from faculty outside of your department
- * Well-written(!), timely(!) E-mail to potential advisors

Other Suggestions

- * Apply to several schools, not all in same general area
 - * statistics of small numbers
 - * California students are “cheaper” for UC schools (advisors only have to pay for local tuition rates)
- * Different schools have different points of view on MSc versus PhD
 - * Caltech: MSc is consolation prize for students who fail their oral exams: do not apply for a MSc degree
 - * UCR: students who start as MSc may continue on as PhD students, when they have “proven” themselves to their advisor
- * Let us know about your career interests and goals, so we can forward opportunities to you
- * Attend seminars and go out to lunch with seminar speakers

CV/Resume Workshop

- * Next Thursday at noon there will be a workshop to help you create a CV or resume, tailored for the specific application (grad school, job, internship....),